

UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA, LOS ANGELES
DEPARTMENT OF ANTHROPOLOGY

Spring 2018

ANTHRO 159 — Selected Topics in Linguistic Anthropology
Language and Culture of Indigenous South America

Monday and Wednesday, 9:30–10:45pm | Room: Public Affairs 2250

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Office hours: Monday 11:30am–12:30pm and by appointment | Room: Haines 374

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Office hours: **Wednesday, 11am–1pm** | Room: Haines 360

The ethnography of indigenous communities in South America has been a vibrant field of study in anthropology throughout the past decades. It has fostered key theoretical developments, including the highly influential ontological turn in sociocultural anthropology, and contributed importantly to the study of verbal art, performance, ritual, and oratory in linguistic anthropology. In this course we will read and discuss ethnographies and theoretical works about the languages and cultures of the continent. Our goal is to learn about the distinctiveness of particular indigenous communities, their languages, rituals, and everyday life and struggles, as well as understand general features of Amerindian cosmologies and practices. We will also discuss the effects of and responses to contact with national societies. The particular contribution of Amerindian ethnographic material to the anthropological concepts of “language” and “culture” will be the central concern of the course.

Prerequisites

While there is no mandatory prerequisite for this course, background in linguistic anthropology is essential. If you have not taken courses in linguistic anthropology at UCLA please discuss with the TA or instructor in order to make up any relevant material.

Course requirements

Full attendance of lectures and sections and all assigned readings are required! There will be frequent in-class multiple-choice quizzes on the readings, two cumulative in-class midterm quizzes in weeks 4 and 8, and an individual research project (there will be no regular midterm or final).

Readings: This is a reading-intensive course (over 100 pages/week)! Unless marked as optional all readings are required. You must finish all readings listed under each lecture *before* that lecture. Make sure to start early and read ahead; begin reading for week 3 in week 2, for example. You are expected to be able to answer quizzes and questions about the content of the readings in class.

In-class multiple-choice quizzes: You should expect a short quiz of up to three multiple-choice questions on the content of the readings every lecture. The quizzes will be administered with the PollEverywhere software platform.

Cumulative in-class midterm quizzes: There will be two short cumulative in-class quizzes (no longer than 20 min) in week 4 and week 8.

Individual final paper: You will write a final essay (10–12 pages, double spaced) for which you will do your own library research. Detailed instructions will be given out in week 3.

Grading breakdown

Attendance and participation:	20 %
In-class quizzes:	20 %
Cumulative in-class midterm quizzes:	20 %
Final paper:	40 %

Accommodations

For accommodations due to special needs please contact the UCLA Center for Accessible Education: A255 Murphy Hall, www.cae.ucla.edu, (310) 825-1501.

Attendance and participation

Everyone is expected to attend every class and every section in its full length. Please arrive on time, be prepared, and stay until the end. It is disrespectful to your classmates and to the instructor to leave early or arrive excessively late. Turn off cellphones before the beginning of each class.

During discussions, you are expected to show respect to your classmates and the instructor. Although you may have a divergent or dissenting perspective on a certain topic, please be tolerant and respectful of others' opinions and make sure to fully listen and understand their points before offering yours.

This is a screen-free class. Electronic devices are distracting for you and others around you. You will need an electronic device to answer quiz questions at the beginning of class but you must turn it off for the remainder of the class. If you need accommodations, please approach the instructor or the TA.

Absences and lateness

No points will be deducted for absences, lateness, and late assignments if they are due to (physical or mental) health issues, family emergencies, or jury duty, but you must provide documentation upon your return. Health issues must be documented through the university health system. If you arrive late to lecture you might miss the quiz and will not get credit for either the quiz or for attendance. Arriving late twice counts as one absence. In the case of the inability to turn in an assignment on time you must inform your TA 24 hours in advance of the deadline.

It is your responsibility to obtain information about topics discussed and announcements made in class during your absence from classmates or by coming to office hours (please do not email the instructors in these cases!). While we also make use of class email to communicate to students, most announcements and instructions for assignments will only be available in class. If you know you will have to miss a class, please ask one of your classmates to update you on what was discussed and take extra copies of any material that was handed out.

Please write down the email and/or phone-number of two of your classmates for this purpose below:

Resources

Undergraduate Writing Center: Unless you have already taken a number of writing-intensive anthropology classes at UCLA you should make use of the Undergraduate Writing Center. It offers UCLA undergraduates one-on-one sessions with Peer Learning Facilitators trained to help with writing assignments from across the curriculum. Especially if English is not your first language, it is highly recommended to go over your writing with one of them. You can schedule appointments online at www.wp.ucla.edu/uwc or go directly to A61 Humanities for shorter walk-in appointments (10am–5pm, starting week 2 on a first come first serve basis).

Libraries: There are many libraries on campus. Some online tools to get you started can be found at: <http://www.library.ucla.edu/support/research-help/start-your-own-research-guide-or-tutorial>

Email policy

You must include “**Anthro 159**” in the subject line of your email to ensure the we receive them. We generally respond to emails within 24 hours. Should you not get a response within that timeframe kindly resend your email.

Please email us only about important matters that you cannot raise in person right after class or in office hours, and which can be answered in a few sentences. For non-urgent or complex issues please always come to office hours.

No emails about assignments or exams will be answered for the 24 hours before they are due, so make sure you start early. No emails about grades will be answered until 24 hours have passed after they are posted.

Academic integrity

All information that you use in your written assignments must be properly sourced. All references to, paraphrases of, and quotations from the articles must be properly referenced using in-text citations following the AAA/Chicago Author–Date format. The use of not properly sourced material in your academic work is considered plagiarism and will be dealt with through the office of the dean of students. Please review the UCLA policy on plagiarism here:

<http://www.registrar.ucla.edu/Registration-Classes/Enrollment-Policies/Class-Policies/Plagiarism-and-Student-Copyright>

Readings

All readings will be provided as PDFs through the course website.

The syllabus is subject to minor changes throughout the quarter.

Class Schedule

Week 1

Monday, April 2 — Preliminaries / The Embrace of the Serpent

Movie “The Embrace of the Serpent” by Ciro Guerra.

Wednesday, April 4 — The Embrace of the Serpent

Movie “The Embrace of the Serpent” by Ciro Guerra, cont’d.

Week 2

Monday, April 9 — Ethnographic Introduction and Historical Overview

Clastres, Pierre. (1972) 1998. “Birth” In *Chronicle of the Guayaki Indians*, translated by Paul Auster, 15–59. New York: Zone Books.

Muysken, Pieter, and Loretta O’Connor. 2014. “Introduction: South American Indigenous Languages; Genealogy, Typology, Contacts.” In *The Native Languages of South America: Origins, Development, Typology*, edited by Loretta O’Connor and Pieter Muysken, 1–26. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press.

O’Connor, Loretta, and Vishnupriya Kolipakam. 2014. “Human Migrations, Dispersals, and Contacts in South America.” In *The Native Languages of South America: Origins, Development, Typology*, edited by Loretta O’Connor and Pieter Muysken, 29–55. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press.

Optional:

Dixon, R. M. W., and Alexandra Y. Aikhenvald. 1999. “Introduction.” In *The Amazonian Languages*, edited by R. M. W. Dixon and Alexandra Y. Aikhenvald, 1–21. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press.

Adelaar, Willem F. H. 2004. “Introduction.” In *The Languages of the Andes*, 1–45. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press.

Wednesday, April 11 — Linguistic Anthropology of Indigenous South America

Urban, Greg, and Joel Sherzer. 1988. “The Linguistic Anthropology of Native South America.” *Annual Review of Anthropology* 17 (1): 283–307.

Background to Linguistic Anthropology:

Wilce, James M. 2017. “Society, Culture, and Communication,” “What is Communication?,” and “Semiotics and Sign-Types.” In *Culture and Communication: An Introduction*, 1–66. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press.

Week 3

Monday, April 16 — Multilingualism and Community Formation

Jackson, Jean. 1974. "Language Identity of the Colombian Vaupés Indians." In *Explorations in the Ethnography of Speaking*, edited by Richard Bauman and Joel Sherzer, 50–64. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press.

Emlen, Nicholas Q. 2015. "Public Discourse and Community Formation in a Trilingual Matsigenka-Quechua-Spanish Frontier Community of Southern Peru." *Language in Society* 44 (5): 679–703.

Optional:

Beier, Christine, Lev Michael, and Joel Sherzer. 2002. "Discourse Forms and Processes in Indigenous Lowland South America: An Areal-Typological Perspective." *Annual Review of Anthropology* 31 (1): 121–45.

Wednesday, April 18 — Modes of Discourse I

Graham, Laura R. 1986. "Three Modes of Shavante Vocal Expression: Wailing, Collective Singing, and Political Oratory." In *Native South American Discourse*, edited by Joel Sherzer and Greg Urban, 83–118. Berlin: Mouton de Gruyter.

Clastres, Pierre. (1966) 1987. "The Bow and the Basket." Translated by Robert Hurley in collaboration with Abe Stein. In *Society Against the State: Essays in Political Anthropology*, 101–128. New York: Zone Books.

Week 4

Monday, April 23 — Modes of Discourse II

Seeger, Anthony. 1986. "Oratory Is Spoken, Myth Is Told, and Song Is Sung, but They Are All Music to My Ears." In *Native South American Discourse*, edited by Joel Sherzer and Greg Urban, 59–82. Berlin: Mouton de Gruyter.

Urban, Greg. 1988. "Ritual Wailing in Amerindian Brazil." *American Anthropologist* 90 (2): 385–400.

Pigott, Charles Maurice. 2013. "Unity and Difference in Andean Songs." *Oral Tradition* 28 (1): 77–102.

Wednesday, April 25 — Narratives and Oral History

Mannheim, Bruce, and Krista van Vleet. 1998. "The Dialogics of Southern Quechua Narrative." *American Anthropologist* 100 (2): 326–46.

Gow, Peter. 2014. "This Happened to Me: Exemplary Personal Experience Narratives among the Piro (Yine) People of Peruvian Amazonia." In *Fluent Selves: Autobiography, Person, and History in Lowland South America*, edited by Suzanne Oakdale and Magnus Course, 69–92. Lincoln & London: University of Nebraska Press.

Basso, Ellen B. 1995. *The Last Cannibals: A South American Oral History*. Austin: University of Texas Press. (*selections*)

In-Class Cumulative Quiz I

Week 5

Monday, April 30 — Language, Culture, and the Politics of Representation I

Howard-Malverde, Rosaleen. 1998. "Words for Our Lord of Huanca: Discursive Strategies in a Quechua Sermon from Southern Peru." *Anthropological Linguistics* 40 (4): 570–95.

Swinehart, Karl F. 2012. "Metadiscursive Regime and Register Formation on Aymara Radio." *Language & Communication* 32 (2): 102–13.

Wednesday, May 2 — Language, Culture, and the Politics of Representation II

Turner, Terence. 1991. "Representing, Resisting, Rethinking: Historical Transformations of Kayapo Culture and Anthropological Consciousness." In *Colonial Situations: Essays on the Contextualization of Ethnographic Knowledge*, edited by George W. Stocking, 285–313. Madison: University of Wisconsin Press.

Graham, Laura R. 2002. "How Should an Indian Speak? Amazonian Indians and the Symbolic Politics of Language in the Global Public Sphere." In *Indigenous Movements, Self-Representation, and the State in Latin America*, edited by Kay B. Warren and Jean E. Jackson, 181–228. Austin: University of Texas Press.

Week 6

Monday, May 7 — Indigenous Activism and the Environment

Conklin, Beth A., and Laura R. Graham. 1995. "The Shifting Middle Ground: Amazonian Indians and Eco-Politics." *American Anthropologist* 97 (4): 695–710.

Kopenawa, Davi, and Bruce Albert. (2010) 2013. *The Falling Sky: Words of a Yanomami Shaman*. Translated by Nicholas Elliott and Alison Dundy. Cambridge, MA: Harvard University Press. Originally published as *La chute du ciel : Paroles d'un chaman yanomami* (Paris: Plon). **(selections)**

Wednesday, May 9 — Culture and Nature in Amerindian Thought

Lévi-Strauss, Claude. (1958) 1963. *Structural Anthropology*. Translated by Claire Jacobson and Brooke Grundfest Schoepf. New York: Basic Books. Originally published as *Anthropologie structurale* (Paris: Librairie Plon). **(selections)**

Week 7

Monday, May 14 — Beyond Culture and Nature

Descola, Philippe. (1986) 1994. *In the Society of Nature: A Native Ecology in Amazonia*. Translated by Nora Scott. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press. **(selections)**

Lima, Tânia Stolze. 2000. "Towards an Ethnographic Theory of the Nature/Culture Distinction in Juruna Cosmology." Translated by Frances Tornabene de Sousa. *Brazilian Review of Social Sciences* 1: 43–52.

Viveiros de Castro, Eduardo. 1998. "Cosmological Deixis and Amerindian Perspectivism." *Journal of the Royal Anthropological Institute* 4 (3): 469–88.

Optional:

Viveiros de Castro, Eduardo. 1996. "Images of Nature and Society in Amazonian Ethnology." *Annual Review of Anthropology* 25 (1): 179–200.

Wednesday, May 16 — The Power of Song

Overing, Joanna. 1990. "The Shaman as a Maker of Worlds: Nelson Goodman in the Amazon." *Man* 25 (4): 602–19.

Townsley, Graham. 1993. "Song Paths: The Ways and Means of Yaminahua Shamanic Knowledge." *L'Homme* 33 (126/128): 449–68.

Uzendoski, Michael A., Mark Hertica, and Edith Calapucha Tapuy. 2005. "The Phenomenology of Perspectivism: Aesthetics, Sound, and Power in Women's Songs from Amazonian Ecuador." *Current Anthropology* 46 (4): 656–62.

Week 8

Monday, May 21 — Communication Beyond the Human I

Smith, Benjamin. 2012. "Language and the Frontiers of the Human: Aymara Animal-oriented Interjections and the Mediation of Mind." *American Ethnologist* 39 (2): 313–24.

Walker, Harry. 2010. "Soulful Voices: Birds, Language and Prophecy in Amazonia." *Tipiti: Journal of the Society for the Anthropology of Lowland South America* 8 (1): 1–21.

Wednesday, May 23 — Communication Beyond the Human II

Kohn, Eduardo. 2007. "How Dogs Dream: Amazonian Natures and the Politics of Transspecies Engagement." *American Ethnologist* 34 (1): 3–24.

Taylor, Anne-Christine. 1993. "Remembering to Forget: Identity, Mourning and Memory among the Jivaro." *Man* 28 (4): 653–78.

In-Class Cumulative Quiz II

Week 9

Monday, May 28 — Language, Ontology, and Difference

Course, Magnus. 2018. "Words Beyond Meaning in Mapuche Language Ideology." *Language & Communication* 63.

Hauck, Jan David and Guilherme Orlandini Heurich. 2018. "Language in the Amerindian Imagination: An Inquiry into Linguistic Natures." *Language & Communication* 63.

Wednesday, May 30 — Language Beyond Speech: Materiality and Self

Walker, Harry. 2018. "On Logophagy and Truth: Interpretation Through Incorporation Among Peruvian Urarina." *Language & Communication* 63.

Chernela, Janet. 2018. "Language in an Ontological Register: Embodied Speech in the Northwest Amazon of Brazil and Colombia." *Language & Communication* 63.

High, Casey. 2018. "Bodies That Speak: Languages of Differentiation and Becoming in Amazonia." *Language & Communication* 63.

Week 10

Monday, June 4 — Encounters and Transformations II

Vilaça, Aparecida. 2014. "Culture and Self: The Different Gifts Amerindians Receive from Catholics and Evangelicals." *Current Anthropology* 55 (S10): S322–S332.

Heurich, Guilherme Orlandini. 2018. "The Shaman in the Flash Drive." In *InDigital Latin America: Indigenous Engagement with Electronic and Digital Media*, edited by Richard Pace. Nashville: Vanderbilt University Press.

Wednesday, June 6 — Encounters and Transformations III

Oakdale, Suzanne. 2018. "Speaking Through Animals: Kawaiwete Shamanism and Metalingual Play." *Language & Communication* 63.

Hauck, Jan David. 2018. "The Origin of Language among the Aché." *Language & Communication* 63.

Finals Week

Monday, June 11, 3pm

Due: Final papers, PDF upload and hardcopy to front desk of Anthropology Department.